July 2017 Volume 2

# Antiquities Accomplishments





## Cultural Compliance

In state fiscal year (FY) 2017, the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (UT-SHPO) provided 2265 comments on 2137 undertakings. The Antiquities Section provided the bulk of those comments, at 74%. In total, 90 state and federal agencies, local municipalities, private industries, and others contacted the UT-SHPO for comment. Table I shows the top 15 consultative agencies this fiscal year, illustrating that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) really put us through our paces. BLM, SITLA, NPS, and UDOT Programmatic Agreements (PAs) for streamlining resulted in 411 cases in FY2017, or 19% of the overall cases. These agreements continue to save taxpayers, proponents, and agencies time and money.

Of the 2265 UT-SHPO comments, the overwhelming majority (or 66.8%) were concurrence with projects with a "No Historic Properties" or "No Adverse Effect" determination. Only 1.8% (or 42) of those undertakings resulted in adverse effects. UT-SHPO completed eight Memorandums of Agreements (MOA) to resolve adverse effects, closed out three old MOAs (including Moss Courthouse which was started in the 1990s), and are working on another three.

Four major Programmatic
Agreements were also signed in
FY2017, including Utah Department
of Transportation West Davis
Corridor and NEPA Authority
Amendment, and procedural PAs for

the Abandoned Mines Program at Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF). UDAF's PA is innovative in its approach to compliance with state law by using para-professionals to assist in project planning. This realizes the limitations of budgets and trainings but the need to protect archaeology.

Within these cases, UT-SHPO provided consensus concurrence with agency eligibility determinations on 3876 cultural resources. Of these, 3132 were archaeological sites, with the most (1718 or 55%) being Not Eligible, and 1414 (or 45%) being considered Eligible. These numbers are a large reverse from last fiscal year

#### **Cases Commented on**

for FY17

Chris Merritt

40.8%

Elizabeth Hora-Cook 33.6%

\*Antiquities Section commented on 74% of all UT-SHPO undertakings.

#### Highlights of compliance for FY2017 include:

- Antiquities and Historic Preservation staff hosted representatives of all 13 Utah National Park Service units as mandated by the Nationwide Streamlined Actions Programmatic Agreement.
- Antiquities and Preservation staff supported the Presidentially-Declared Disaster in Cache and Box Elder Counties.
- Three trainings for Chinese Overseas History and Material Culture for the BLM at the State Office and at the Price and Fillmore Field Offices. Trained 132.
- Three Cultural Compliance Trainings for Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, Division of Drinking Water, and the Utah Watershed Coordinating Council. Trained 112.



Table 1: Top 15 Consulting Agencies in FY2017

Agency	# of Consultations	% of Total Consultations
Natural Resources Conservation Service	508	22.4%
Bureau of Land Management	367	16.2%
Federal Communications Commission	103	4.5%
Utah Department of Transportation	99	4.3%
Salt Lake County	98	4.3%
Forest Service	96	4.2%
National Parks Service	96	4.2%
Trust Lands	68	3.0%
USDA – Rural Development	67	2.9%
Army Corps of Engineers	64	2.8%
Bureau of Reclamation	59	2.6%
Utah County Housing Authority	43	2.0%
Salt Lake Community Action Program	40	1.7%
Air Force	37	1.6%
Community Development of Corp. of Utah	37	1.6%



## **Archaeology Records**

The Antiquities Records staff saw a busy FY2017 with 1416 archaeological state project numbers assigned and 2601 archaeological site numbers assigned. The number of project numbers assigned is approximately 40% above last year's count. The site number assignment count returned to average rates but is approximately 30% lower than last year. These changes are likely due to the large number of NRCS projects processed in FY2017, which had limited inventory acreage and few archaeological findings. Records staff have felt this project number increase as we eliminated the digitizing backlog from previous fiscal years, but now see it return due to inordinate large influx of projects while continuing other duties. In FY2017, records staff digitized into GIS approximately 5261 archaeological records (sites and reports) for display and consumption through Preservation Pro and other data delivery methods. This is a nearly 95% jump in GIS ingestion

pointing to significant efforts by the records team.

Beyond spatial digitizing records, staff continued to scan and ingest archaeological records for access by qualified patrons. In this last fiscal year, records staff added 2815 digital archaeological site forms to relevant collections that were received digitally from agencies and consultants (e.g. born digital records). With these forms the Archaeological Site Form Collection now totals over 124,000 records. Records digitization efforts by staff also included ingesting nearly 9400 digital archaeological reports into the Archaeological Reports Collection according to Mountain West Digital Library standards with full text searchability. While these reports, which are scanned by Utah Correction Industries (UCI), are not yet accessible to qualified patrons we plan to provide access through our upcoming revision of the Preservation Pro system. Voluntary digital records submissions (in

addition to required paper) continue to increase and we now receive digital data with approximately 75% of consultations. All site forms have now been archived, so stop in and see the changes!

Through Preservation Pro, over 47,400 individual digital archaeological site forms were accessed online. This is over a 100% increase from last year, pointing to the importance of online access to these digital records. Another approximately 120 archaeological site forms and 523 archaeological reports were accessed on-site. It is estimated that through Preservation Pro or onsite visits, over 2100 archaeological record searches were facilitated by Antiquities.

UCI also completed data entry on approximately 2200 legacy IMACS encoding sheets, which provides the basic tabular data backbone for Preservation Pro. A further 350 records for such encoded data was received digitally by Antiquities, eliminating the need for further data



entry. Staff also released a means for digital submission of such data for the new site form, eliminating the need for paper records and future data entry with the release of the new site form.

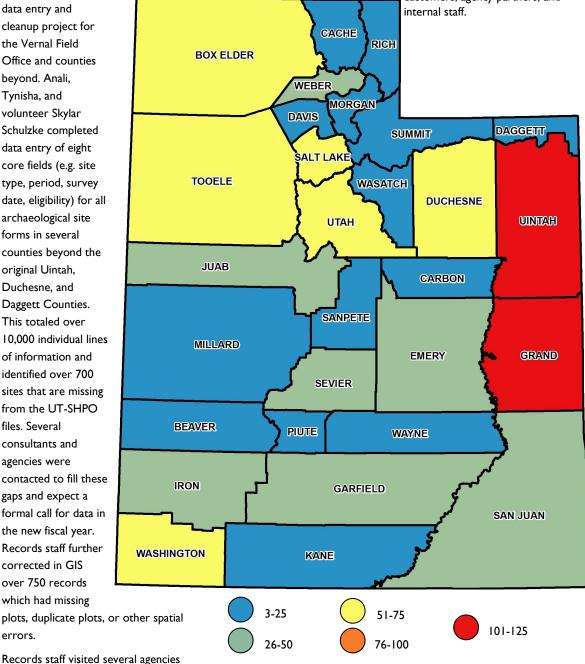
Using a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Land Management, the Antiquities Section continued to benefit from the services of two temporary employees, Anali Rappleye and Tynisha Lutz (both Weber State University anthropology students) to

complete a massive data entry and cleanup project for the Vernal Field Office and counties beyond. Anali, Tynisha, and volunteer Skylar Schulzke completed data entry of eight core fields (e.g. site type, period, survey date, eligibility) for all archaeological site forms in several counties beyond the original Uintah, Duchesne, and Daggett Counties. This totaled over 10.000 individual lines of information and identified over 700 sites that are missing from the UT-SHPO files. Several consultants and agencies were contacted to fill these gaps and expect a formal call for data in the new fiscal year. Records staff further corrected in GIS over 750 records which had missing

and retrieved archaeological site forms and reports that needed to be added to our data files. This included the Price Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (55 records) and Capitol Reef National Park (126 records). More records procurement trips are planned for FY2018, but voluntary submissions of old data are welcomed!

Finally, with the Preservation Section, Antiquities and Records staff spent significant effort in researching and

seeking a replacement for Preservation Pro. Following significant scoping and needs assessment, an RFP was released and bids reviewed. A qualified and reputable company was selected in spring 2017 and work is currently being completed to deploy the new system. A large portion of this work includes rebuilding the archaeology database to fit the newly released Utah Archaeological Site Form requirements. We are committed to building a next-generation archaeological data delivery solution to meet the primary needs of our customers, agency partners, and





errors.

Map 1: Reports received by county, FY17



# **Ancient Human Remains Program**

Dr. Derinna Kopp led four ancient human remains recoveries from non-federal, non-state lands this fiscal year. Seven sets of human remains were accessioned, and 14 individuals were reported to Utah Division of Indian Affairs and tribes. She also assisted the U of U with the analysis of early 20th century anatomical specimens inadvertently discovered during remodeling of the George Thomas Building on President's Circle. Rounding off a busy year, Dr. Kopp also trained 40 law enforcement officers from around the state to assist in their understanding of the human remains recovery process and basics on identification of human remains versus animal.

### **Mapping Milestones**

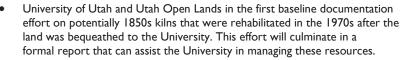
- Launched five new interactive GIS Story Maps: Historic Fort Douglas, Utah Veteran's Memorials, Historic Building Surveys by Decade, Utah Boundaries, and Utah History Day Regional & State Contest Locations. The Veteran's Memorials map was a partnership with the Office of Veterans Affairs.
- Staff presented three maps at this year's Maps on the Hill event: Veteran's Memorials, Civilian Conservation Corps, and Archaeological Vandalism.
- Visit these at https://heritage.utah.gov/history/history-maps

# **Beyond SHPO**

Archaeology & Preservation Month 2017 saw 62 events in 20 counties during May. This is the largest number of events and counties since State History has pushed the statewide effort in 2013. It is estimated that over 3,000 Utahns participated in these events. The Kickoff Archaeology Day at Utah Natural History Museum was a major success with several hundred children and parents attending.

May isn't the only month for outreach. Throughout FY2017 we partnered with:

- Project Discovery in the Nine Mile Canyon Stewardship Day with an estimated 300 visitors through the canyon.
- Manti-LaSal National Forest to document a CCC trash dump associated near Ephraim.
- Antelope Island State Park to revisit archaeological sites after the major wildfire in July.
- The Archaeological Conservancy on documenting over 100 rock art panels at the Smith Family Rock Art Preserve in Utah County, on the west shores of Utah Lake.
- Camp Floyd State Park to test an archaeological feature to assess its association with historic Camp Floyd.



- State Trust Lands in their staining of wood fencing protecting the Great Hunt Panel in Nine Mile Canyon.
- Hosted the Old Spanish Trail Association mid-year Board Meeting and Social Event.
- Fort Douglas Military Museum and University of Utah with a public archaeology screening event for Fort Douglas Day.
- Salt Lake Community College and the Fillmore Field Office for placement of three archaeology interns.
- Utah County Certified Local Government to discuss and plan for archaeologyrelated projects.



Fort Douglas Day

### **Antiquities Section Staff**

- Chris Merritt, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Section
   Coordinator
- Arie Leeflang, Archaeological Records Manager
- Deb Miller, Assistant Archaeological Records Manager
- Derinna Kopp, Forensic Anthropologist
- Elizabeth Hora-Cook, Cultural Compliance Reviewer
- Janice Reed-Campbell, Section I 06/UCA404 Support Staff
- Christina Epperson, GIS Analyst
- Tessie Burningham, Records Technician
- Anali Rappleye, Records Temp
- Tynisha Lutz, Records Temp
- Amy Barry, adopted stray



Archaeology Day at NHMU

